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11. (Amended) A transgenic, non-human animal comprising the polynucleotide
C
of Claim[s] 1[, 2, 3 or 4].
CON^t

Remarks

Applicants have amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies and reduce the number of independent and dependent claims. The application as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants request examination and passage of the application to issuance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-0423.

Respectfully submitted,



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Copy of Pending Claims

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
 - a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a transcriptionally active fragment thereof;
 - b) nucleotides 1-2605, 2011-2605, 2011-5342, 3331-3656, 3421-3548 or 3495-3599 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
 - c) nucleotides 3331-3656, 3495-3599 or 3421-3548 of SEQ ID NO:1.
2. An isolated polynucleotide comprising, nucleotides 3331-3656, 3495-3599 or 3421-3548 of SEQ ID NO:1 spliced downstream of nucleotides 1-2558 of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. An isolated polynucleotide that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
5. An isolated polynucleotide that comprises the complement of the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
6. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1 operably associated with a heterologous coding sequence.

7. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
8. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1 operably associated with a heterologous coding sequence.
9. A genetically engineered host cell comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
10. A genetically engineered host cell comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 2 operably associated with a heterologous coding sequence.
11. A transgenic, non-human animal comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.
12. The polynucleotide of claim 6, wherein the heterologous coding sequence is a reporter gene.
13. The polynucleotide of claim 12, wherein the reporter gene is *LacZ*.
14. A method for identifying a test compound capable of modulating SMC-specific gene expression comprising:
 - (a) measuring the level of expression of a reporter gene under the control of an SM α -A regulatory region or a transcriptionally active fragment thereof in the presence and absence of said test compound,

such that if the level obtained in the presence of the test compound differs from that obtained in its absence, then a compound which modulates SMC-specific gene expression is identified.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the reporter gene in *LacZ*.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the test compound identified by the method in claim 14.

17. A method for delivery of a therapeutic molecule comprising, introducing into SMC of a subject a vector comprising an SM α -A regulatory region sequence, or transcriptionally active fragment thereof, operatively linked to a heterologous nucleic acid which encodes said therapeutic molecule.

21. An isolated polynucleotide having a sequence identical in sequence to 20 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.